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## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 4, amend claims 1-2 and 5-6, and add new claims 7-8, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid construct ~~comprising~~ consisting of, in operable linkage in the 5' to 3' direction;

(1) a promoter;

(2) a splice donor site;

(3) a gag/pol coding sequence;

(4) a Rev responsive element;

(5) a splice acceptor site; and

(6) a selectable marker coding sequence;

~~wherein the splice acceptor site is less efficient than the splice donor site.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:

(a) a first expression cassette comprising in operable linkage in the 5' to 3' direction:

(1) a promoter;

(2) a splice donor site;

(3) a gag/pol coding sequence;

(4) a Rev responsive element contiguous with;

~~(5)~~ a splice acceptor site that is from the third exon of the HIV-1 tat and rev genes; and

~~(6)~~(5) a selectable marker coding sequence;

~~wherein the splice acceptor site is less efficient than the splice donor site;~~ and

(b) a second expression cassette comprising in operable linkage in the 5' to 3' direction:

(1) a promoter; and

(2) a nucleic acid encoding a factor which binds to element (4) of said first expression cassette, which on such binding regulates splicing at said sites (2) and ~~(5)~~ (4) of said first expression cassette when an mRNA is transcribed from said first expression cassette.

3. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the splice acceptor site is that of the third exon of the HIV-1 tat and rev genes.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid construct of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the splice donor site is the major 5' splice donor site of HIV.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~claim 4~~ claim 2, wherein the splice donor site of the first expression cassette is the major 5' splice donor site of HIV.

7. (New) A composition comprising:
   (a) a first expression cassette comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 1; and
   (b) a second expression cassette comprising in operable linkage in the 5' to 3' direction:
      (1) a promoter; and
      (2) a nucleic acid encoding a factor which binds to element (4) of said first expression cassette, which on such binding regulates splicing at said sites (2) and (5) of said first expression cassette when an mRNA is transcribed from said first expression cassette.

8. (New) The composition of claim 7, wherein the splice acceptor site is that of the third exon of the HIV-1 tat and rev genes.